

Message Text

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SUBJ: VENEZUELAN NEWSPAPER SAYS AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAM WILL
TRY TO NORMALIZE ECONOMIC RELATIONS

1. CARACAS DAILY EL NACIONAL REPORTED APRIL 14 THAT VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ADVISED GOV THAT AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAM'S PRINCIPAL EFFORT FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN VENEZUELA WILL BE TO NORMALIZE BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD "HAVE REACHED THEIR LOWEST POINT." CITING OFFICIAL GOV SOURCES, THE NEWSPAPER SAID AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAM WILL NOT INITIALLY TAKE UP PETROLEUM MATTERS WITH THE GOV.
2. EL NACIONAL ARTICLE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAM "HAS TOLD" VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON THAT GREATER ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE "ENERGY QUESTION" AT A SUBSEQUENT STAGE. THE ARTICLE REPORTED THAT THIS" COULD COINCIDE WITH THE FORMULATION OF A CONCRETE POLICY BY US. PETROLEUM AUTHORITIES WITHIN NEW STRUCTURES OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PETROLEUM PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES." EL NACIONAL SAID THE GAME PLAN IS FOR AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAM TO MOVE BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AWAY FROM THE CRITICAL POINT AT WHICH THEY PRESENTLY ARE FOUND " BECAUSE OF THE USG'S OPPOSITION TO OPEC PRICING POLICIES," IN ORDER TO INITIATE LATER " A NEW PETROLEUM DIPLOMACY IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE."

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3. THIS NEWSPAPER REPORTED FURTHER THAT USG WANTS TO ENSURE

A PERMANENT AND STABLE SUPPLY OF VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IS COMPLETED. CITING OFFICIAL REPORTS FROM THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY, EL NACIONAL REPORTS USG "HAS ACCEPTED FAIRLY WELL THE NEW SITUATION WHICH IS COMING ABOUT IN PETROLEUM RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA." MOREOVER, "THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY ADVERSE REACTION, NEITHER OFFICIAL OR POLITICAL."

4. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 12 FEATURED AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN'S REMARKS AT HIS APRIL 11 SWEARING-IN CEREMONY. AP REPORT CARRIED IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY JOURNAL QUOTED AMBASSADOR AS SAYING HE WOULD TAKE IT AS HIS MANDATE "TO DEVELOP A NEW SPIRIT OF COMMUNICATION, A SPIRIT TEMPERED BY REALISM BUT A SPIRIT WITHOUT RECRIMINATIONS." REPORT SAID HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR DIPLOMATS TO "STOP TALKING AT ONE ANOTHER AND AROUND ONE ANOTHER AND TO BEGIN A NEW DIALOGUE." ANSA(ITALIAN) WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNT USED BY EL UNIVERSAL REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR CALLED VENEZUELA "ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DYNAMIC COUNTRIES," ADDING THAT THE US. AND VENEZUELA NEED "TO DEVELOP A NEW RELATIONSHIP THAT REFLECTS A NEW REALITIES" ANSO ACCOUNT SAID AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT WILL BE A "VERY IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY" FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF BILATERAL RELATION.
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